

FIRST RECORD OF CAPE GANNET *SULA CAPENSIS* FOR ARGENTINA

From September 1992 to May 1993, I studied Nearctic waders along the coast of San Antonio, Río Negro, Argentina, and also collected data on seabirds and waterfowl. On 7 November, at Banco Reparó, an extensive sandflat situated in the north of Patagonia (40°47'S, 64°57'W), I noticed a gannet which came flying over the sea from the south, at a distance of 200 m. Having had previous experience with Northern Gannets *Sula bassana* and Australian Gannets *S. serrator*, I readily recognised it as one of the larger *Sula* species. A second look with the aid of a telescope revealed that the bird had a black tail, black secondaries and yellowish head. I therefore identified the bird as an adult Cape Gannet *S. capensis*. When the gannet approached close to the shore, a group of roosting South American Terns *Sterna hirundinacea* was disturbed several times. After 30 minutes it flew in a southwesterly direction along the coast. Five days later, I again discovered an adult Cape Gannet (possibly the same bird) at a high-tide roost among c. 30 Kelp Gulls *Larus dominicanus* on the beach of Los Alamos, c. 10 km southwest of Banco Reparó. It was preening and did not give the impression of being exhausted.

The Cape Gannet breeds on islands off southwest Africa. Outside the breeding season it migrates in the South Atlantic as far north as the Gulf of Guinea and in the Indian Ocean north to Mozambique (Crawford *et al.* 1983, *S. Afr. J. Mar. Sci.* 1: 153–174). Possibly small numbers reach the North Atlantic, although there is disagreement whether sightings of adults off European coasts are of Cape Gannets or abnormally plumaged Northern Gannets (Paterson & Riddiford 1990, *Br. Birds* 83: 519–526). This appears to be the first confirmed record of Cape Gannet for Argentina, as well as for S. America as a whole. So far, there were only two records of unidentified *S. serrator/capensis* off Brazil (Sick 1993, *Birds in Brazil: a natural history*). Furthermore, vagrant Cape Gannets have been recorded off Australia (Venn 1982, *Victorian Nat.* 99: 56–58).

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MOTTLED PETREL *PTERODROMA INEXPECTATA* OFF
TIERRA DEL FUEGO

The Mottled Petrel apparently occurred regularly off Tierra del Fuego prior to the heavy decline during the last centuries. Harrison (1985, *Seabirds, an identification guide*) states that no records are available from these waters since 1848, but that non-breeding immatures are likely still to occur occasionally.